



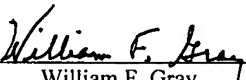
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I hereby certify that this correspondence and any papers referred to as attached are being deposited, on the date shown below, with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 13 January 2004


William F. Gray

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office action dated 15 July 2003. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 37 of this paper.